

Article - Health Occupations

[\[Previous\]](#)[\[Next\]](#)

§8–513.

(a) In this section, “perioperative assessment and management” means the assessment and management of a patient preoperatively, intraoperatively, and postoperatively.

(b) (1) A nurse anesthetist may perform the following functions:

(i) Perioperative assessment and management of patients requiring anesthesia services;

(ii) Administration of anesthetic agents;

(iii) Management of fluids in intravenous therapy; and

(iv) Respiratory care.

(2) A nurse anesthetist has the right and obligation to refuse to perform a delegated act if in the nurse anesthetist’s judgment, the act is:

(i) Unsafe;

(ii) An invalidly prescribed medical act; or

(iii) Beyond the clinical skills of the nurse anesthetist.

(3) Paragraph (1) of this subsection may not be construed to authorize a nurse anesthetist to:

(i) Diagnose a medical condition;

(ii) Provide care that is not consistent with the scope of practice of nurse anesthetists; or

(iii) Provide care for which the nurse anesthetist does not have proper education and experience.

(c) A nurse anesthetist shall collaborate with an anesthesiologist, a licensed physician, or a dentist in the following manner:

(1) An anesthesiologist, a licensed physician, or a dentist shall be physically available to the nurse anesthetist for consultation at all times during the administration of, and recovery from, anesthesia;

(2) An anesthesiologist shall be available for consultation to the nurse anesthetist for other aspects of the practice of nurse anesthesia; and

(3) If an anesthesiologist is not available, a licensed physician or dentist shall be available to provide this type of consultation.

(d) The nurse anesthetist shall ensure that a qualified anesthesia provider:

(1) Performs a thorough and complete preanesthetic assessment;

(2) Obtains informed consent for the planned anesthetic intervention from the patient or an individual responsible for the patient; and

(3) Formulates a patient-specific plan for anesthesia care.

(e) The nurse anesthetist as part of the standards of practice shall:

(1) Implement and adjust an anesthesia care plan as needed to adapt to the patient's response to the anesthesia;

(2) Monitor a patient's physiologic condition for untoward identifiable reactions and initiate appropriate corrective actions as required;

(3) Enter prompt, complete, and accurate documentation of pertinent information on a patient's record;

(4) Transfer responsibility for care of a patient to other qualified providers in a manner that ensures continuity of care and patient safety;

(5) Ensure that appropriate safety precautions are taken to minimize the risks of fire, explosion, electrical shock, and equipment malfunction;

(6) Maintain appropriate infection control standards;

(7) Evaluate anesthesia care to ensure its quality;

(8) Maintain continual competence in anesthesia practice; and

(9) Respect and maintain the basic rights of patients.

(f) This section may not be construed to require a written collaboration agreement between a nurse anesthetist and an anesthesiologist, a physician, or a dentist.

[\[Previous\]](#)[\[Next\]](#)